



C O N G R E S S W O M A N  
**KIRKPATRICK**  
★ ARIZONA'S 2ND DISTRICT ★

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**Dear Friend,**

Welcome to this week's newsletter! As you know, my focus as your representative is to be accessible, accountable, and to advocate for all Southern Arizonans. This August District Work Period, my team and I have participated in meetings to hear from folks like you about the variety of issues that matter to our community.

Below are just a few of the highlights from our work in August!

### **Inflation Reduction Act Wins for Arizona**

The [Inflation Reduction Act](#) is a historic piece of legislation, passed without a singular Republican vote, that addresses a number of our country's biggest challenges by lowering health care costs, combating climate change, and working toward the rich paying their fair share of taxes. This legislation will:

- **Lower prescription drug prices:** empowering Medicare to negotiate the price of prescription drugs, preventing excessive price hikes, and capping seniors' out-of-pocket drug costs at \$2,000.
- **Lower health care costs:** reducing Arizonans' premium costs by extending ACA subsidies for three more years, locking in average annual savings of \$800 per person.

- **Lower energy costs:** saving Arizona families an average of \$1000 per year on their energy bills.
- **Lower the deficit and help fight inflation:** making a historic down payment on deficit reduction of approximately \$300 billion.
- **Deliver America's largest-ever climate investment:** supporting domestic energy production, creating nine million good-paying union jobs, and reducing carbon pollution by roughly 40 percent this decade.

## Biden Administration's Student Debt Relief Plan

The Biden administration announced a student debt relief plan to help working and middle-class federal student loan borrowers. I am a strong supporter of this plan and I have supported similar efforts to relieve student debt in the past. This plan will:

- Provide up to \$20,000 in debt cancellation to Pell Grant recipients and up to \$10,000 in debt cancellation to non-Pell Grant recipients for borrowers who earn less than \$125,000 per year or households earning less than \$250,000.
- Extend the federal student loan pause a final time through December 31, 2022.
- Make the student loan system more manageable for current and future borrowers by cutting monthly payments in half for undergraduate loans and holding schools accountable when they hike up prices.

More information will be available to borrowers in the coming weeks. Sign up [here](#) to be notified when this information is available.

## Legislative Updates

### Legislation I cosponsored:

- [H.R. 8111 - My Body, My Data Act.](#) This bill would create a new national standard to protect personal reproductive health data.
- [H.R. 6117 - PrEP Access and Coverage Act.](#) This bill would require all private and public insurance plans to cover the HIV prevention pill and related services with no out-of-pocket costs for patients.
- [H.R. 1255 - Living Donor Protection Act.](#) This bill would fully prohibit insurance and cost discrimination against living organ donors.

- [\*\*H.R. 1481 - Cost of Police Misconduct Act.\*\*](#) This bill would establish a framework to collect and publish data on allegations of misconduct by law enforcement officers at the federal, state, and local levels.
- [\*\*H.R. 8719 - Great Bend of the Gila Conservation Act.\*\*](#) This bill would establish 330,000-acre Great Bend of the Gila National Conservation Area, 47,000-acre Paolo Verde National Conservation Area, and nearly 60,000 acres of new wilderness. These designations would preserve the region's deep indigenous history – visible in rock art and carvings, remains of ancestral village structures, and geoglyphs.
- [\*\*H.R. 5409 - To require the Secretary of Agriculture to convey the Pleasant Valley Ranger District Administrative Site to Gila County, Arizona.\*\*](#) This bill directs the Forest Service to convey the Pleasant Valley Ranger District Administrative site to Gila County, Arizona.

**Letters I sent:**

- Letter to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Secretary Denis McDonough expressing concerns over the VA's proposed rule to change reimbursement rates for special modes of transportation, specifically Emergency Air Medical Services (EAMS). The letter requests the VA to review the impacts this rulemaking will have on veterans' healthcare and work to ensure our veterans in rural communities have adequate and appropriate access to EAMS before issuing a final rule.
- Letter urging the House Committee on Energy and Commerce leadership to ensure inclusion of the bipartisan Senate amendment to prohibit intentionally added per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in food packaging in any final reauthorization of FDA user fee programs package.
- Letter to Secretary of Labor Martin Walsh and Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health (OSHA) Douglas Parker urging OSHA to exercise federal enforcement authority over the Arizona Division of Occupational Safety and Health (ADOSH) until it meets its legal requirements to provide Arizona's health care workers with occupational safety and health plan that is "at least as effective as" federal OSHA's program. ADOSH currently does not meet this requirement.

## Noteworthy Meetings

Alongside Secretary Pete Buttigieg, Senator Mark Kelly and Mayor Regina Romero, I was proud to announce that the Department of Transportation designated a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant to the City of Tucson for the 22nd Revitalization Project. The \$25 million grant will be

used to address structural deficiencies at the 22nd street bridge, a transit route that connects busy Interstate 10 to the eastern edge of the city along a heavily commercialized corridor.

The 22nd street bridge is an important corridor in our community, and I am grateful to see this project get the funding it deserves.



## PFAS Updates in Arizona

Earlier this month, the [EPA announced a proposal](#) to designate two PFAS chemicals as hazardous substances under CERCLA. I was pleased to see this announcement – a hazardous substance designation of PFOA and PFOS will be an important tool for Arizonan water management agencies to use as they work to safeguard our clean drinking water. I am glad to see that the EPA is committed to its [PFAS Strategic Roadmap](#) to safeguard public health and hold polluters accountable. I have made PFAS remediation a top priority while I've been in Congress, and I am committed to continuing my efforts to increase and enhance federal resources to aid our hard working local water agencies in their efforts.

This month, my staff met with AZ Department of Environmental Quality Director Cabrerra to discuss PFAS remediation strategies that the state, in

conjunction with Tucson Water, is taking to keep our water safe from PFAS forever chemicals. I look forward to working with the state to continue to develop strategies to hold polluters accountable, and ensure federal funds are available for remediation.



Members of my staff attended the Sierra Vista Community Connect Resource Fair to share information about the services our office offers to constituents.

Our team attended the Military Affairs Committee Luncheon at Ft. Huachuca to award Special Congressional Certificates of Recognition to Soldiers and civilians nominated by their chain of command.



My staff attended the Pima Community College (PCC) Desert Vista Early Learning Center Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. The preschool provides care and education to PCC students and the community.

## District Updates

### Military Academy Nominations

Members of Congress may nominate candidates for appointment to four of the five U.S. service academies. I may nominate up to ten individuals for each vacant academy slot allotted to our district. To request a Military Academy Nomination from our office, please complete [this form](#) on my website by **Sunday, November 13th, 2022, at 11:59 PM Arizona time.** Best wishes to



you as you pursue your goal of attending one of the U.S. Service Academies and serving our country!

### **2022 Congressional App Challenge**

Members of the U.S. House of Representatives are sponsoring this event to recognize and encourage students to learn how to code and create their own applications. This challenge highlights the value of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) disciplines and education. All middle and high school students in AZ-02 are eligible to participate. Registration closes **November 1, 2022**.

I am excited to sponsor the Congressional App Challenge this year, and I encourage students and schools across AZ-02 to participate.

A district winner will be chosen by a panel of local judges, and the winner will be featured on [CongressionalAppChallenge.us](https://CongressionalAppChallenge.us) and will also be put on display in the U.S. Capitol.

### **Suicide Prevention Awareness Month**

September is suicide prevention month and a time for us to raise awareness and address the urgency of preventing suicide.

In 2020, Congress created the new, free, 24/7 nationwide dialing code for mental health emergencies: **988**. If you or someone you know is having thoughts of suicide or experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis, 988 provides direct connection to free, confidential and compassionate support. When you call or text 988, or chat with Lifeline at [988lifeline.org](https://988lifeline.org) you'll be quickly connected to trained crisis counselors who will listen to your concerns, provide support and connect you to additional resources if needed. There is HOPE. You are not alone in crisis. Just call, text or chat 988.

More information about the availability and details of the program can be found through the [National Alliance on Mental Illness](https://NationalAllianceonMentalIllness.org).

Hola En 2020, el Congreso designó el 988 como el nuevo código de llamadas gratuito, 24/7 y confidencial para emergencias de salud mental. Si tú o alguien que conoces tiene pensamientos de suicidio o está experimentando una crisis de salud mental o de consumo de sustancias, el 988 te dará el apoyo que necesitas. Cuando llames al 988, te conectarán con consejeros de crisis que te escucharán tus inquietudes y darán apoyo en español. Hay esperanza. La línea de Prevención del Suicidio y Crisis FUNCIONA. No estás solo en la crisis. Para obtener apoyo confidencial 24/7, simplemente llama al 988.

### **Vaccine Appointments & News**

President Biden released a [National COVID-19 Preparedness Plan](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/09/01/president-biden-releases-national-covid-19-preparedness-plan/) which will enable America to treat COVID-19, protect against new variants, prevent

economic and educational shutdowns, and continue to vaccinate the world. As we move forward with this new guidance, the vaccine and booster are still the most important public health priority to reduce transmission and severe illness. [Read](#) more about the CDC's guidance for COVID-19 vaccines and boosters.

Due to a lack of funding, the Biden administration will stop distributing free at-home COVID-19 test kits on **Friday, September 2**. Read more [here](#).

### **PIMA COUNTY**

Sign up for a vaccine in Pima County by clicking [here](#).

Pima County Help Lines: Contact help from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., 7 days a week, at 520-222-0119 for TCC/TMC. For help with Banner Appointments call (833) 509-0908. For help with registering for the Arizona Health Department vaccination center at the University of Arizona 1 (844) 542-8201.

### **COCHISE COUNTY**

To register for an appointment, click [here](#). Other locations in Cochise County can be found here. For those without internet or those having technology issues, call the ADHS Help line, (602) 542-1000 or (844) 542-8201.

If you encounter problems with the Arizona Department of Health Services website, or do not have internet access, please call one of these numbers for assistance:

**ADHS hotline - (602) 542-1000**  
**Additional hotline - 844-542-8201**  
**COVID Hotline - Dial 2-1-1**

## **Constituent Services Update**

We passed the **\$6.7 million** mark for money returned or saved for Southern Arizonans! I am so proud of my casework team for their diligent work to assist residents of AZ-02.



Need help with a federal agency? Please don't hesitate to reach out to my team by clicking [here](#).

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Due to COVID-19 office location visits are appointment only but please don't hesitate to reach out! Visit my [website](#) for more information on casework, send me an [email](#), and follow me on [social media](#)! I love hearing from you.

Thanks for reading the newsletter. Stay healthy & get vaccinated!

Best,

Ann Kirkpatrick

Member of Congress

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